Balance of State Regional Committee Meeting Minutes 5/16/13

Members Present

Shari Wright BWB Connections
Heather Pack CCC&TI
Frances Johnson National Guard

Vickie Basinger Kwanzaa Family Inn
Angela Battle Kwanzaa Family Inn
E.B. Freeman Dulatown Outreach Center
Sarah McBrayer Smoky Mtn.
Don Bushman Caldwell Healthnet Collab.
Sharon Poarch Shelter Home
Bill Warren McDowell Mission

# Introductions: Sharon Poarch asked for introductions.

1. **Review of Minutes:** Sharon P. asked for everyone to review April minutes. Motion to approve the minutes with correction of Yorkfellow to Yokefellow was made by Frances Johnson and seconded by Don Bushman.
2. **Discussion on Continuum of Care:**
	1. **How to get partners to the table:** Sharon P. reported Jenny Deal, who is connected with St. James Episcopal, Habitat for Humanity, but also multiple other groups, especially the Hispanic population, is interested in joining the group. Sharon P. asked for other ideas from the group. Frances J. suggested someone from DSS. Don B. spoke about the necessity of having a household in which to belong, more than a shelter. Bill Warren reported in McDowell they are the only “partners” at the table. There is a Women’s DV shelter, but they do not participate in any of these discussions. We are the agencies who help with the transition into housing out of shelters. Every program has their own specific population they target. Sarah McBrayer suggested the Lenoir Housing Authority, which hasn’t worked out in the past because of lack of personnel. Shari Wright suggested someone going in person instead of a phone call. We keep going back to the definition of Continuum of Care. June 25th is the training on how to facilitate a CoC. After that point, we should have more information (e.g. mission, etc.). Bill W. pointed out that it’s one thing to identify the homeless, quite another to convince the community that they are worthy of housing. This is something we have to constantly work at. E.B. Freeman suggested getting something in the newspaper to at least getting news to the area. Shari W. reported the BoS has created a website for every CoC, but we don’t know how to access it. Sharon P. said she would man a Facebook page, when we get to that point. Shari W. suggested we postpone June’s meeting (until after training) and regroup in July to proceed with discussions so as not to repeat the same discussion. At this point, we will table the rest of the agenda until the July meeting.
	2. **~~Activities and Awareness:~~**
	3. **~~Committees Development and Implementation:~~**
	4. **~~Ways to Move Forward:~~**
3. **Agency Updates:**
	1. **National Guard**-Frances reported the Festival in the Park at Mulberry Rec this Sat.
	2. **Smoky Mtn**.-Sarah reported merging with Western Highland Network; IMD (Institutes of Mental Illness) issues with the state.
	3. **McDowell Mission**-Bill reported a small fund-raiser coming up, but preparing for “summer slump months.”
	4. **Shelter Home**-Sharon has an intern from Z. Smith working with DV Victims.
	5. **Kwanzaa**-Vickie has an intern from the Golden Leaf Foundation for 2 months.

Next meeting July 18th. We will attempt to Skype this meeting with McDowell.

Minutes submitted by Heather Pack